

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Resolution of Support for the LDWF Assessment of Blue Crab in Louisiana Waters

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Blue Crab fishery is one of the largest fisheries by volume and value in the state and in the Gulf of Mexico Region; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 stock assessment of the Louisiana blue crab fishery is the best available information on the stock status, using fisheries independent and dependent data collected through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Blue Crab Stock Assessment establishes conservation benchmarks for overfishing and overfished status for the blue crab fishery, and

WHEREAS, actions taken by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will assist in maintaining the blue crab fishery within the conservation standards as described in the Louisiana assessment and,

WHEREAS, maintaining a healthy blue crab stock is in the best interests of the State of Louisiana as it provides sustainable harvest levels and improves economics within the fishery, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby accept and endorse the Louisiana Blue Crab Stock Assessment as the best available information on the fishery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the blue crab stock status approach the overfished or overfishing limits as defined in the most current Louisiana blue crab stock assessment, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall come before the Commission with an updated assessment and a series of management options for the Commission to review and act upon, intended to keep the fishery from becoming overfished.



Ronald Graham, Chair